

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 1, 2013
SGW H-769, 10am

PRESENT: Mr. Andrew Woodall (Chair), Ms. Lauren Broad (Secretary), Ms. Petra Alves (representing Ms. Marie-Josée Allard), Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Mr. John Bower (representing Ms. Katie Sheahan), Mr. Jeansil Bruyère, Ms. Melanie Drew, Mr. Sharon Fraenkel, Ms. Hannah Hackney, Mr. Daniel Houde, Ms. Sharon Hunter, Mr. Paul Jerajian, Mr. Howard Magonet, Mr. Sean Nolan, Ms. Irene Petsopoulos, Dr. Cameron Skinner, Ms. Jenessa Speed, Ms. Brigitte St-Laurent, Ms. Olivia Taddio, Ms. Lorraine Toscano.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mr. Gerald Beasley, Mr. Veryan Goodship, Ms. Nadine Montour, Ms. Stephanie Sarik, Ms. Emily Sheepy, Mr. Bradley Tucker.

ABSENT: Mr. Kavian Abhari, Dr. Stéphane Brutus, Mr. Jacques Lachance, Mr. Andrew Roberts, Ms. Alexis Suzuki.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order. Ms. Taddio moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Bruyère seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair noted that mid-term examinations and student elections were coming up and wished the students good luck. The elections would be completed by the end of the month. Mr. Woodall wished to point out that the Dean of Students Office staff had noticed a significant increase in activity at the office at the beginning of the winter semester, when the beginning of the fall semester had traditionally been more demanding. This change may reflect the fact that students are preoccupied in the fall semester settling in to their academic schedules, and that they would finally have the opportunity to explore the many services available to them at the university in the winter semester.

Mr. Woodall welcomed Mr. Bower to the Council, representing Ms. Sheahan for the meeting. Mr. Bower recently joined Concordia University as the Associate Director of Student Athlete Services. The Chair recalled that Ms. Sheahan had recently announced her retirement from the university at the end of the academic year.

The Chair congratulated the CSU and ASFA for their preparations for the Summit on Higher Education, as well as the GSA for their efforts to put the issue of international student tuition on people's radar.

The Chair reported that the Multi-faith Chaplaincy (MFC) was coordinating a program with Apathy Is Boring, a non-partisan, youth-led and youth-founded organization that promotes voting amongst younger people. The organization provides education around the political system and how it works. MFC and Apathy Is Boring were working together on a project to promote discussion about different faiths on campus. To date, the participation was impressive.

The Alternative Spring Break Program (ASB), under the Dean of Students Office, had taken place over the reading week and was a great success. Groups were located in New Orleans, the Laurentians and Montreal, and students spent the week volunteering with various organizations. All partners involved had provided very positive feedback about the experience. The ASB Showcase would take place on March 22nd for participants to share their experience with the Concordia community. The LIVE Centre offered several volunteering opportunities for students over the reading week as well, all of which were very well attended.

Campus Compass, a program coordinated by the Dean of Students Office, would be holding another student leadership event, "Changing of the Guard", on April 6, 2013. The goal was to help improve the transition and transfer of information between outgoing and incoming student leaders.

The Chair informed the Council that the women's basketball team would be playing McGill in the Quebec finals the following day and that the winner would go on to Nationals. He noted that Ms. Sheahan was absent because she was attending the men's wrestling National competition, where Concordian David Tremblay was hopeful to win his fifth consecutive title. He had also been an Olympian at the London summer games. Mr. Bower confirmed that the tournament would be webcast on the Stingers website and the Canadian Intersport website. Mr. Bower also noted the graduating student luncheon that would be taking place in April.

Ms. Taddio reported that the Love Doesn't Hurt Campaign was underway, working with Centre 2110 to hold open forums to discuss what emotional abuse is, how it affects people and to bring awareness to the university community. The organizers were developing a workshop to be held at the Hive. The details for the event would hopefully be finalized within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Bruyère added that another event coming up was in collaboration with the Communication Studies Student Association, to have a sexual education awareness day. There would be speakers from around Montreal and from Centre 2110 to provide information about transmission of HIV and other infections and to discuss healthy sexual relationships. The event would take place at the Loyola campus. Anyone interested in attending or looking for more information about the campaign was asked to email Ms. Taddio or lovedoesnthurtconcordia@gmail.com. There was also the possibility of a staff day as part of the campaign and any developments would be made public for the Concordia community.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2013

Ms. Petsopoulos moved to approve the amended minutes from the meeting of January 25, 2013 and Ms. Drew seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Sub-Committees

CCSL Special Projects

The Chair reported that the Special Projects sub-committee had met to review the winter applications for projects requesting \$5,000 and less. A total of 57 projects were approved for funding, for a total of \$52,197. The balance remaining in the fund for requests over \$5,000 was \$16,704.

Presentations by applicants requesting over \$5,000

The Chair recalled that there were two projects requesting over \$5,000, for which the applications had been circulated to Council members ahead of time for review. The applicants presented their projects to the Council at the meeting:

“ConSat-1”, presented by Mr. Gregory Gibson and Nick Sweet. Amount requested: \$30,000

“Concordia SAE”, presented by Mr. Milad Parvizi and Ms. Cynthia Downing. Amount requested: \$7,500

A brief question and answer period followed each presentation. The Council considered the two projects simultaneously.

A main concern of the Council was the long-term sustainability of projects such as these, who were requesting substantial amounts of money. The Chair pointed out that the Special Projects sub-committee had reviewed the projects and were making a recommendation to the Council to support each project for \$3,500. Ms. Alves asked if there were more venues at the university for these or similar projects to request funding. Several Council members noted the following alternative sources of funding: the CSU, the Alumni Association, the group's faculty or faculty association, the Concordia University Small Grants Program, the President's Office.

The Council considered the viability of both projects and their overall impact on the student body at the university. Mr. Fraenkel strongly believed that the “Concordia SAE” project would encourage Concordia alumni to reinvest their time and money into the university. He saw this project as an excellent motivator for current students to become involved and to strive towards success. Ms. Toscano highlighted the fact that both projects would help with the recruitment of new students by enticing them with high profile, exciting projects.

Many Council members agreed that the “ConSat-I” project would have a larger impact on student life, as it planned to have workshops and outreach programs at the university to engage students. This project was also facing a time constraint with the fact that they would lose their launch date for the project if they were unable to complete the satellite by a specific date.

After deliberation, the Council agreed to divide up the remaining funds available between the two projects, so that each would receive close to half of their asking amounts.

Ms. Taddio put forth the following motion, seconded by Ms. St-Laurent:

Be it resolved that the project “ConSat-I” be approved for \$13,000 and the project “Concordia SAE” be approved for \$3,700 from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion passed unanimously.

Updated “ASFA Talks” Budget: pending \$1,000 of funding

The Chair reminded Council members that the project “ASFA Talks” had been approved for \$3,500 in the fall semester, with an additional amount of \$1,000 earmarked for the winter semester. The additional funding would be dispersed based on the applicant returning with an updated budget, confirming their expenses and other sources of funding. The Chair noted that the updated budget had been circulated to the Council members prior to the meeting for review. He wished to add as an item of information that several of the other sources of funding for the project would not be coming through with their intended support because of recent budget cuts.

The Council discussed several concerns they had about the project, one being the fact that other sources of funding were still not clear in the updated budget. Furthermore, the applicant had confirmed that ticket sales for the main event would be a source of funding, however this was no longer clear. Council members felt strongly that applicants should be held accountable for following the budgets they submit. Ms. Alves pointed out that the venue rental of \$1,000 for H-110 would no longer be applicable, following the new policy for internal users for Hospitality spaces. Mr. Jerajian stated that only as a last resort would ASFA use funds from their association budget in order to compensate for a deficit, however this would take away from other special projects in need of funding. The Chair confirmed that no reimbursements would be issued without the applicant submitting the required original receipts and documentation, as is the policy for claiming the CCSL Special Projects funding.

The following motion was put forth by Ms. Taddio, seconded by Mr. Magonet:

Be it resolved that the project “ASFA Talks” will receive \$1,000 from the CCSL Special Projects Fund in addition to the \$3,500 already approved in the Fall 2012 semester. These funds will be dispersed according to the standard claiming procedures outlined in the applicant's approval letter. Furthermore, the applicant must provide sufficient evidence of sale of tickets to the March 14, 2013 event of 25% of the venue capacity, either pre-sale or at the door, in order to claim the additional \$1,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

CCSL Awards

Mr. Magonet reported that the call for nominations for the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards had been extended to February 27th and that 23 nominations had been submitted. He pointed out that not all nominees would receive an award and that the sub-committee would be meeting on March 5th to review the applications. The sub-committee was still missing a faculty member and two undergraduate representatives, therefore anyone interested in joining was asked to contact Ms. Broad as soon as possible.

5.2 Update on Review of CCSL Mandate

The Chair affirmed that the ad-hoc committee had met to review the CCSL mandate. They had started to develop a proposal for a research project to collect data on how and why students become engaged on campus. The focus of the research would be to determine how to get the average student to become involved, by learning about both success stories and obstacles that have hindered students in the past. The goal would also be for the CCSL to itself become more engaged with important student issues when faced with real limitations, such as the number of meetings per year. The Chair hoped to have a concrete proposal for the CCSL in time for the next meeting in April.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Drew asked for the help of student leaders in spreading the word of the upcoming national college health assessment survey. It would be the first time there would be a Canadian cohort for this type of survey. The survey would be launched on March 25th to 5,000 students in an attempt to better understand their health behaviours and beliefs. It would also help determine what services and programming should be developed based on the needs and tendencies of the student population. While Ms. Drew admitted that the survey was quite detailed and very personal, she hoped for a significant response rate. Ms. Drew ensured the Council that more information would be distributed to student leaders.

Ms. Drew also noted that there would be an outreach session held by Health Services on March 26th to inform students on how to stay healthy during the winter through better nutrition. The previous outreach session had seen 206 significant contacts with students and Ms. Drew encouraged people to attend.

Mr. Bruyère informed the Council that the Love Doesn't Hurt Campaign would be hosting a Bingo night at the end of March to raise funds for Sexually Transmitted Infections, to be divided equally between an internal and external organization. Mr. Bruyère would send out more information as it became available.

The Chair reported that Ms. Taddio and a fellow student had been interviewed by a local television station about the lack of sexual education in high schools. This was another example of the recent increase in attention given to the importance of healthy living and it solidified the fact that this was an important issue for students.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for April 5, 2013 at Loyola AD-308 at 10am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Mr. Bruyère motioned to terminate the meeting. Ms. Taddio seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.